

OCA 3159-89



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

**SPECIAL**

SEPTEMBER 8, 1989

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LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer -

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SUBJECT: Revised Defense draft report on H.R. 1248, to make the Secretary of Commerce a member of the National Security Council.

NOTE: This LRM supercedes the one dated August 1st.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1989.

Questions should be referred to SUE THAU/ANNETTE ROONEY (395-7300), the legislative analyst in this office.

RONALD K. PETERSON FOR  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

Enclosure

cc: C. B. Gray  
T. Thiele  
D. Gessaman  
C. Beebe

**SPECIAL**



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315-1600

Honorable Les Aspin  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for comments on H.R. 1248, a bill "To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to make the Secretary of Commerce a member of the National Security Council."

H.R. 1248 is unacceptable to the Department of Defense. This legislation, which makes the Secretary of Commerce a statutory member of the National Security Council, unnecessarily alters the current workable and effective NSC structure which limits the NSC to those core officials who must be involved in every national security decision (the President, Vice President, Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense as statutory members, plus the Director of Central Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as statutory advisors). Although there are some matters of direct interest to the Department of Commerce, most are not. The current NSC structure also enables the President to include other department heads, as appropriate, when there are national security matters of concern to individual departments. For this reason, enlarging the current membership of the Council would serve no useful purpose.

We therefore oppose passage of the bill H.R. 1248.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report for the consideration of the Committee.